

# THE MORNING NEWS

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## Comments on Marriott International commitment to Aruba's environment

As was reported in yesterday's paper, Marriott International officially announced their support of Prime Minister Mike Eman and his administration's policy of a "Green Aruba" by financing the development of an environmental education program for Aruba's primary schools, targeting the 5th and 6th graders.

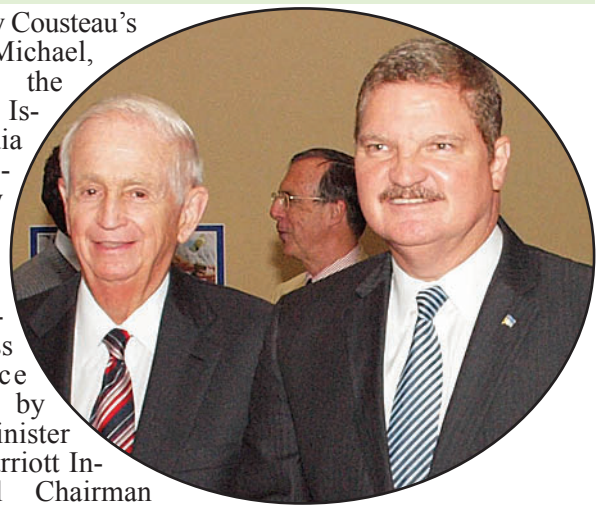
The program is particularly concerned with the marine environment, so biologist Dr. Richard Murphy, who worked for a number of years with Jacques Cousteau and with the Ocean Future's Society,

founded by Cousteau's son Jean Michael, developed the program.

Island media had the opportunity to meet Dr. Murphy, who spoke during a press conference attended by Prime Minister Eman, Marriott International Chairman and CEO Bill Marriott and Aruba's Minister of Tourism, Transport & Labor, Otmar Oduber, among local and international Marriott executives at the Marriott Resort yesterday morning, February 22.

"I welcome the opportunity to collaborate with the Prime Minister and an organization such as the Ritz-Carlton in the development of education modules for the young people of Aruba," stated Dr. Murphy. "Having worked with the Cousteaus for over 40 years, it is nice to have an opportunity to practice what we preach and to find colleagues and partners who really care and I believe really understand the importance of the environment, how it affects our lives, and how dependent we are upon it."

He went on to explain that



**Bill Marriott and Prime Minister Eman**

with the local department of education they have defined four different realms of concern: coral reefs, wetlands, endangered species, and what he feels is of particular interest, water and energy. Upon investigation of existing conditions and attitudes on the island, he was "pleased to learn of the commitment on Aruba to renewable energy; at the highest level of government there was genuine interest and understanding of the importance of the environment and the use of renewable energy." The consequences of using other sources of energy are substantial and becoming more apparent daily on a planetary level, according to Dr. Murphy.

*Continued on page 3*

## Rey Momo burns! Farewell to Carnaval 58



Arubans ended their 2012 Carnaval festivities with the ritual Burning of Rey Momo at the stroke of midnight this past Tuesday, auguring Ash Wednesday and the somber, contemplative period of Lent. According to folklore, Rey Momo is a pagan figure, the son of nightmares and the dark of night. He presides over the feast of lunatics, and is the master of cruel satire, sarcasm, and merciless irony. He is also the protector of those who give in to a life of excesses and festivities. In today's terms, Rey Momo is the king of party animals, and Aruba's Carnaval is the ultimate party!

*Cont on pg 1*



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## Former Prime Minister of Netherlands Antilles to speak to women of Aruba



ORANJESTAD -- March 8, 2012 is international Women's Day, and people around the world will stop long enough to celebrate women's day. Aruba has also planned to observe this special day with a spectacular event. During a recent press conference the government informed that Aruba has planned a workshop in which different women of the region have been invited to come and discuss, interchange, inform and inspire Aruban women.

The most important areas relevant to women's issues on Aruba are: violence against women, leadership and parti-

cipation, economic authority, planning, national budgets and human rights.

These and other topics affect women on Aruba. Hence, these are among the topics to be discussed during this year's Women's Day workshop.

One of the speakers invited is the well known former Prime Minister of the Netherlands Antilles, Emily de Jongh-Elhage, who is currently a member of the Council of Women World

Leaders. On various occasion de Jongh-Elhage has visited Aruba during her official function as Prime Minister. She is well known also for her exemplary life and intent on working towards the betterment of her country.

The Council of Women World Leaders is an international organization of female heads of government currently in office or recent past heads of government whose mission is to mobilize the highest level of females globally to collective action on issues of critical importance to women, and for the equal development of women.



**Beth Brooke**

Another speaker who also has much to share with women is Beth Brooke. Beth Brooke is the Global Vice Chair of Ernst & Young. Beth delights in using her leadership position as one of the highest officers at Ernst & Young to make a difference in the world. Brooke strongly believes that leadership in the 21st century is not limited to creating wealth, but especially to make a difference. She is convinced that women must be empowered economically and she speaks to the world regarding the importance of the promotion of women in business and in the society.

Aruba will be privy to some of the world's outstanding speakers on women's issues. This promises to be a very interesting and informative event for everyone, but particularly for the women of Aruba.

## Youth Health Care Program outfitted with new equipment



ORANJESTAD -- Just recently, the Minister of Public Health presented the Jeugdgezondheidszorg (JGZ) (Youth Health Care) section of the Department of Public Health various new equipment and instruments. The Management Team of the Public Health Department and the interim Director of JGZ, Dr. Helle Moreta and her team were all present at the occasion.

The new equipment and instruments will increase the capability for doing investigation and analysis among our children and youth on the island. Some of the equip-

ment received included, scales, professional tapes, height measurements, bio-impedance scales, and tables for medical examinations.

The new equipment received is part of a Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) project. The material is given in an effort to facilitate the investigation of the health of our adolescents. Said investigation is slated to begin at the end of February at our secondary schools.

Aruba has a working relationship with PAHO and other organizations.

*Continued on pg 4*



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## Rey Momo Burns...

*Continued from page 1*

TBS Brass Band and D'Licious Band provided the fuel for one final night of revels, while this year's musical royalty, Tumba King Chendell Beaumont, Calypso King Valentino King, and Roadmarch King Drewin Kemp, with the Youth X-treme Band, delivered a full evening of entertainment in anticipation of the culmination of seven weeks of unbridled bacchanalia.

Tecla Kelly-Hernandez,

President of the Stichting Arubaanse Carnaval, or SAC, the governing body of all the related events, delivered the "Proclamation of Rey Momo." She thanked the many organizations who made this year's Carnaval again a success, including support services such as the Red Cross, IMSAN, island police force, SERLI-MAR, as well as all the queens, kings, princes and pan-chos whose sparkling perform-

ances so enhanced the enjoyment of Carnaval 58.

Finally, at 12:01 AM, Rey Momo burst into flame, providing an impressive conflagration that ended with a final spurt of fireworks, and the spirit of Carnaval 58 was officially laid to rest, only to rise again, like a phoenix, from the ashes, in November as Carnaval 59, to once more hold sway over the Aruba.

*by Rosalie Klein*





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## Comments on Marriott International commitment . . .

Continued from page 1



**Dr. Richard Murphy and Dr. Ryan Peterson**

Mr. Marriott reiterated a number of the social programs to benefit Aruba, particularly youth, that is policy to their presence on the island, and how proud Marriott is to operate on "this beautiful island of

Aruba. Being a hotel operator brings with it an obligation to be a good community partner and an environmental steward; our environmental vision is to show that responsible hospitality management can be a very positive force for the environment, while we also create economic opportunity and jobs... We applaud Prime Minister Mike Eman's vision for a "Green Aruba" and his plan to position the island as a "Green Gateway" to the Caribbean. Through his efforts, this nation will set an example for the rest of the region of creative solutions for challenging energy and climate issues."

He cited the new program will "spread awareness of Aruba's rich eco-systems for generations to come." During the Q & A, Sue Stephenson, Vice President of Community Footprints for Ritz Carleton, confirmed it was intended for the program to become a permanent part of Aruba's school curriculum, the first such initiative for Marriott International, but if proven a success, will hopefully be established on other islands where they have a presence. "Education is an extremely valuable tool in protecting the island's natural resources, so they can be cherished by locals and visitors for years to come," commented Mr. Marriott.

Marriott International plans to open a Ritz Carlton in late 2013; they feel will bring a

new standard of luxury accommodations to the island, which was touched upon when discussing the hospitality franchise's commitment to Aruba. Mr. Marriott concluded by thanking and complimenting the Aruban government for their efforts in improving the overall visitor experience, including the improvements to the infrastructure of downtown Oranjestad, and the island's ongoing commitment to provide the best vacation possible for visitors.

Prime Minister Eman, in turn, extended his gratitude for the hospitality company's support; he likened the conversations shared with Mr. Marriott just at the time he took office, to that of a father with long experience advising a young son "the value of progress and

growth, with the little son waxing nostalgic about the nature and protecting the environment...and we did come to a conclusion based on the balance we seek. The right answer is not in any book; we have to search deeply our souls and conscience when we have to make decisions that have arguments on both sides."

"We realized we will have to work together for progress on Aruba, but to insure it is progress and translate it to the well being of the citizens of Aruba and protection of everything we love that is Aruba," recalled PM Eman. He expressed great pride this resulted in the inauguration of a project "that gives value to the decisions we made on that day."

by Rosalie Klein

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## YMCA organizes excellent Health, happiness & Energy Seminar in San Nicolas

*"Stress Free Mind, Disease Free Body, Inhibition Free Intellect, Trauma Free Memory and a Sorrow Free Soul – is a birth right of every human being."*

YMCA Aruba whose motto is 'Sprit, Mind & Body' takes great pleasure in organising a seminar from Mr. Dushyant Savadia, International teacher from the Art of Living Foundation. Mr. Dushyant is settled in U.K. and is currently travelling across the Caribbean. He has been teaching Art of Living courses for the last 11 years. He started the activities of the Foundation here in Aruba in November 2011 and has held Art of Breathing courses in Aruba for all age groups including children, youth and adults. Mr. Dushyant was once addicted to alcohol and smoking with a very angry personality and was transformed completely through these courses and has since dedicated his life to the Foundation to bring this knowledge to people across the world.

As a larger contribution to the Caribbean Islands, Art of Living is also offering diverse

workshops for society in general and for special groups like prisoners, drug addicts etc. The Art of Living programs have already benefited more than 300 million people across the world from all walks of life.

*"An inner transformation to last a lifetime." Existence is a Fact - Living is an Art*

### Art of Living Foundation:

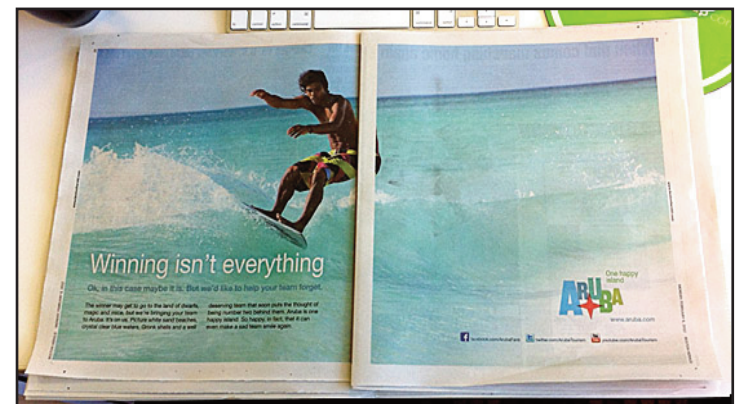
Founded in 1981 by Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, The Art of Living Foundation is an educational and humanitarian NGO (Non-Governmental Organisation) engaged in stress-management and service initiatives. The organisation operates globally in 151 countries. The Art of Living offers stress-elimination programs which include breathing techniques, meditation and yoga. The Foundation has spread peace across communities through diverse humanitarian projects, including conflict resolution, disaster relief, empowerment of women, prisoner rehabilitation, education for all, and environmental sustainability.

The Art of Living Course is offered worldwide and is a practical program of experience and knowledge designed to develop the full potential of life. The course gives practical experience on all levels of existence: body, breath, mind, intellect, memory, ego and the self. The Breathing Techniques also have been subjected to published international researches claiming physical, mental and emotional benefits. Some of the reported benefits include:

- **Reduced Stress**
- **Enhanced Health and Well Being**
- **More Joy and Enthusiasm**
- **Improved Relationships**
- **Benefit to the Immune System**

YMCA has taken the lead in organizing this powerful seminar on Sunday, the 26th February at YMCA, SAN NICOLAS from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. The participation in the seminar is FREE. Please register by calling at tel. 562-4722 or 737 3743 or by email at aol aruba@gmail.com.

## New England Patriots to vacation on Aruba... courtesy of ATA



ORANJESTAD -- In the recent Super Bowl the New York Giants and the New England Patriots faced off with the New York Giants winning that game. The Super Bowl is the biggest sport event in the US. The Giants will be travelling to a popular destination as part of a gift customarily given every year to the winning team. The Patriots, on the other hand, has been offered a splendid vacation on Aruba by the Aruba Tourism Authority. This we understand was a tremendous surprise to the Patriots which captured a great deal of attention from the media and raised the name of Aruba to new heights. This offer from ATA has been described as simply "ingenious" of Aruba!

According to ATA CEO, Ronella Tjin Asjoe: "...we want to recognize and celebrate the hard work and dedication of the team even though they did not win the game. We believe that Aruba is the very best place to recuperate from their loss, and of course, it is the perfect place for them to celebrate the fact that they are winners who got to the Super Bowl."

An official invitation has been sent to the owners of the Patriots. ATA has also placed ads in the Boston Globe, Boston AM, and in USA Today. Coaches and players have visited Aruba and who are planning to visit soon. These are all celebrities in the US. This allows Aruba to showcase what we have to these influential people in the US. Those who have visited us thus far have indicated their

fascination with the island and were very grateful. These are important contacts for Aruba and certainly important reviews of Aruba.

The Aruba invitation stirred a great deal of positive reactions from the American media. Multiple TV channels covered the news of Aruba's invitation to the Patriots, to name a few, CNN, CBS and Fox News. Some 25 television shows like CNN American Morning, Good Day NY, Fox-Detroit, Good Day Dallas, ABC Houston, Fox Business News, Good Morning San Diego, and Good Day Chicago, to mention just a few. The total audience for these shows numbers over 1.1 million viewers.

The Wall Street Journal published this news twice up to last week Tuesday. This publication alone reached more than 2 million persons. On Twitter the announcement captured the attention of at least 254.674 persons!

This ingenious move by ATA has captured in all more than 11 million persons! Hence, we are certain that this will result in being very fruitful for Aruba, putting Aruba on the map in an extremely positive light.

The accompanying photo shows the ad which appeared in different media in the US and the different headlines which appeared on the internet. Several positive messages were received here from different US sources, such as from Director of Time Warner, congratulating Aruba for their creative and innovative move.

## Youth Health Care Program...

*Continued from page 2*

This relationship enables us to have access to top level specialists and scientists who come to the island to exchange information and knowledge with our own local experts.

In the investigation among our adolescents much attention will be given to the matter of obesity. Obesity happens to be one of our greatest concerns as it relates to diabetes and other chronic diseases causing death among our population.

The government of Aruba is appealing to everyone to contribute to solving the problem of obesity, especially obesity among our children and young people and of the entire island. It is necessary to eat a balanced meal every day and to become physically active, which will help ward off such diseases as



diabetes, cardiac diseases and certain types of cancer.

It has been proven that physical activity improves the quality of life. Also, a balanced daily diet helps in maintaining

proper weight and a better functioning body overall. The government is convinced that..."together we can stop the epidemic of obesity."



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## Don't miss the Caribbean Festival this coming Thursday



**SAN NICOLAS** -- Every Thursday evening, islanders flock to San Nicolás to enjoy the fabulous bargains and entertainment of the Caribbean Festival, a mix of Aruban and Caribbean traditions kept alive by the multi-cultural make up of Aruba's "Sunrise City."

Originally populated by the thousands that came from all over the Caribbean to work at the refinery, the town has savored and preserved the food, music and dance that many brought with them from their various regions. The festival revels in the diverse background of San Nicolás, offering unique dishes and beverages, along with a full evening of island entertainment.

This week, dance group 'Masiduri' specializing in folkloric music opens the show from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. A full roster of some of Aruba's finest criollo entertainers follows including the Superdancers, Quincy Hasham; Limbo and Carnival end the evening, and this is only on the main stage!

Scattered throughout the main street of San Nicolás are performance areas surround by seating where you can settle in with an island snack or dinner, including steelpan music with Nico Connor and Bito and the Boys.

Island visitors can enjoy the Caribbean festival as part of a complete package available at all De Palm and concierge desks, which include transportation. You can customize your evening by purchasing with or without food and refreshments. A variety of local handicrafts are offered for sale and the event guarantees a good time for all, with an authentic introduction to the island experience.

## Friends of the Handicapped fundraising bingo this Friday

B I N G O				
7	25	44	57	62
15	22	40	50	70
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2	28	37	55	68
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It is time again for the annual fundraising bingo organized

by a group of dedicated island visitors who formed a foundation nearly 25 years ago to assist Aruban charities, the Friends of the Handicapped, or FOTH. During the months they winter on Aruba they have raised over 1.2 million dollars over the years, volunteering their time and effort, all of which is donated to a number of local foundations that perform important services for the mentally and

physically challenged, the elderly, terminal patients receiving home hospice care, and hungry children.

Their final fundraiser, an evening of bingo at the Renaissance Convention Center in Oranjestad, is a popular affair offering not only the satisfaction of knowing you are helping several worthy causes, but can possible win, and win BIG!

A sheet of six cards costs \$12.00 or 20 Aruban florins, and there are ten games with ascending cash prizes begin-

ning at 250 Aruban florins (\$143.) and finishing with a whopping 5000 Aruban florins (\$2,850.) for a full card. There are also a wealth of door prizes awarded for neat stuff donated by various vendors like dinners for two, sailboat cruises and much more.

So if you are a bingo fanatic, or just enjoy a congenial evening while assisting the less fortunate, join the Friends of the Handicapped tomorrow evening; doors open at 5:00 PM and games begin at 8:00 PM.



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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### West slams Syria over killing of journalists

PARIS (AFP) - Western powers condemned Syria for the killing of two foreign journalists yesterday, with Washington slamming the regime's "shameless brutality" and Paris holding Syrian authorities responsible.

US war correspondent Marie Colvin of Britain's Sunday Times and French freelance photojournalist Remi Ochlik were killed in the city of Homs in what activists said was shelling by President Bashar al-Assad's forces.

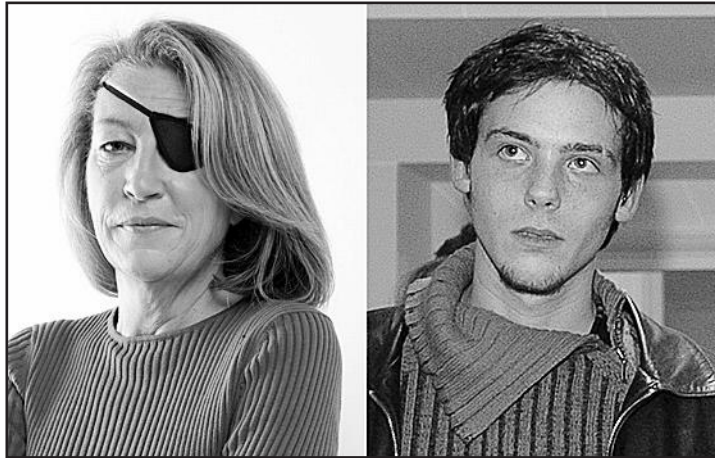
Three other Western journalists were wounded in the attack on a makeshift media center in the Baba Amr district, including Colvin's British photographer colleague Paul Conroy and French reporter Edith Bouvier of Le Figaro.

In Washington, US State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland condemned the "tragic incident" as another example of the "shameless brutality" of the Assad regime.

France demanded access to the victims of the attack and summoned Syria's envoy to Paris, "to remind him of the intolerable nature of the Syrian government's behaviour," Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said in a statement.

He added that the Syrian government must immediately stop the attacks.

British Prime Minister



AFP combination photo shows (at L) US-born journalist Marie Colvin and (at R) freelance French photojournalist Remi Ochlik. Colvin was a renowned reporter who had covered countless conflicts over 30 years and wore a distinctive eye patch after she was wounded in Sri Lanka. She was voted Foreign Correspondent of the Year in the 2010 British Press Awards. Ochlik was a 28-year-old photographer represented by the IP3 agency, which he co-founded in Paris, who quit his studies aged 20 to report on Haiti and has since covered many of the recent upheavals in the Arab world.

David Cameron paid tribute to Colvin, saying her death in Syria showed the risks journalists face in exposing the truth.

Britain summoned the Syrian ambassador to the foreign ministry to lodge a protest over the deaths.

Russia, which has opposed Western efforts to rein in the Syrian regime, also condemned the deaths. The foreign ministry said "Moscow resolutely condemns and is seriously concerned" by the killings.

European Union foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton described the killings as criminal.

### Nuclear talks failure heightens Iran tensions

TEHRAN (AFP) -- A fruitless visit to Iran by UN nuclear inspectors raised tensions yesterday, with Russia warning of "catastrophic" consequences if it leads to a military attack on its Middle East ally.

France said Iran's refusal to allow the inspectors to see a key military site used for suspected atomic weapons research was a "missed opportunity" that could undermine chances of reviving wider talks between Tehran and world powers.

Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, was defiant, however.

He made no mention at all

### Nine killed in Afghan protests over Koran burning

KABUL (AFP) - At least nine demonstrators were shot dead and dozens wounded yesterday in violent protests across Afghanistan over the burning of the Koran at a US-run military base, officials said.

The Afghan interior ministry blamed at least one of the deaths on "foreign guards of Camp Phoenix", a US military base in eastern Kabul attacked by protesters, but most were attributed by local officials to clashes with police.

The ministry said it would investigate all the deaths, blaming some of them on "security guards" at unnamed foreign bases. A spokesman said it was not known whether the guards were Afghans or foreigners.

In Kabul and in provinces to the east, north and south of the capital, furious Afghans took to the streets screaming "Death to America," throwing rocks and setting fire to shops and vehicles as gunshots rang out.

In the city of Jalalabad, students set fire to an effigy of President Barack Obama, and

the US embassy in Kabul went into lockdown.

Afghanistan is a deeply religious country where slights against Islam have frequently provoked violent protests and Afghans were incensed that any Western troops could be so insensitive, 10 years after the 2001 US-led invasion.

The US commander in Afghanistan, General John Allen, apologised and ordered an investigation, admitting that religious materials, including Korans "were inadvertently taken to an incineration facility."

Allen and US Deputy Defense Secretary Ashton Carter called on Afghan President Hamid Karzai yesterday to apologise again for the incident.



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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Cruise operator caught up in Italy shipwreck probe

ROME (AFP) - Europe's biggest cruise ship operator was caught up yesterday in the probe into the Costa Concordia tragedy as eight more bodies including a five-year-old Italian girl were found in the wreck.

Three managers of Costa Crociere received formal notifications that they were under investigation along with four officers from the liner, joining captain Francesco Schettino and first officer Ciro Ambrosio as suspects.

"We have received seven formal notifications -- four for officers on board, three for company employees on land," Costa Crociere spokesman Davide Barbano told AFP, without revealing the names of those being investigated.

Italian news agency ANSA reported that the three Costa Crociere executives were the company's vice president Manfred Ursprung, the head of the company's crisis unit Roberto Ferrarini and fleet superintendent Paolo Parodi.

Italian media reports said the seven face charges of manslaughter, causing a shipwreck and failing to communicate with maritime authorities.

The giant luxury ship hit rocks off the Italian island of Giglio and keeled over with 4,229 passengers and crew from 60 countries on board on the night of January 13. Thirty-two people are believed to have died in the tragedy.

According to leaked transcripts of his questioning by investigators, Schettino said

Costa Crociere was aware of the scale of the disaster early on, but the company has indicated that he had deliberately misled executives.

Schettino -- dubbed "Captain Coward" by the tabloid press for his quick exit from the ship -- called Ferrarini several times as the tragedy unfolded.

Schettino and Ambrosio are being investigated on charges of manslaughter, causing a shipwreck and abandoning ship before all passengers were evacuated.

Italian consumer group Codacons, which is a plaintiff in the inquiry and is suing for damages, has called for Costa Crociere's chief executive Pier Luigi Foschi and for all the ship's officers to be put under investigation.

Meanwhile, divers found eight badly decomposed bodies in the submerged part of the giant liner, including that of five-year-old Dayana Arlotti.

All eight were found on deck four of the ship close to the lifeboats, some of which failed to deploy during the chaotic night-time evacuation.

Dozens of survivors have launched lawsuits against Costa Crociere and its US parent company Carnival Corp in France, Germany and the United States.

In a lawsuit in Carnival's home state of Florida, 39 survivors are seeking more than half a billion dollars in damages.

### 49 dead, hundreds injured in Buenos Aires train crash

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) - A packed commuter train slammed into a retaining wall at a railway terminus in Buenos Aires during rush hour yesterday, leaving at least 49 dead, 550 injured, and dozens trapped in the wreckage.

"The train was full and the impact was tremendous," a passenger identified only as Ezequiel told local television, adding that medics at the scene appeared overwhelmed by the scale of the disaster.

Witnesses said passengers were hurled on top of each other and knocked to the floor "in the blink of an eye," some losing consciousness and others seriously injured.

"Unfortunately, we must report that there are 49 dead in the accident," including a child, police spokesman Nestor Rodriguez told a news conference.

Civil defense officials said at least 550 people were injured in the crash, which witnesses said occurred after the train's brakes failed as it was



A view of the front of a commuter train that crashed into the Once train station during rush hour.

arriving at a station on the western outskirts of Buenos Aires.

The toll surpassed the city's last major rail disaster just five months ago when two trains and bus collided during rush hour, killing 11 people and injuring more than 200.

A dozen ambulances were dispatched to the scene, and officials said many passengers

had suffered multiple fractures and abrasions.

At least 30 people were trapped in the twisted wreckage of the first and second cars of the train, Alberto Crescenti, the head of the city's emergency services office, said.

Transportation Secretary Juan Pablo Schiavi said the train entered the station at a speed of 20 kilometers (12 miles) an hour, and failed to stop, crashing into a retaining wall at the end of the track.

"It was a very serious accident," he said at a news conference. "Cars piled up on top of each other and one them went six meters inside another car."

Firefighters and rescue workers had to break through skylights in the train's roofs to open a path to those trapped inside.

### French police free Strauss-Kahn in sex probe

LILLE (AFP) - Former IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn walked free from a French police station yesterday after two days of questioning about a series of sex parties.

Prosecutors said that Strauss-Kahn, once considered the front-runner to become the next president of France, would be summoned to appear before magistrates in March.

His lawyer Frederique Baulieu said his client was "very satisfied to have been heard" by investigators who questioned him on charges of "abetting aggravated pimping by an organised gang" and "misuse of company funds".

A source close to the in-

quiry said earlier he would be issued with a summons to appear before the investigating magistrates either to be interviewed under caution as a witness or to face charges linked to prostitution and corruption.

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## Health & Living

# China company opens bear bile farm to media



**A bears is seen at one of the traditional Chinese medicine company Guizhentang's controversial bear bile farms in Hui'an, southeast China's Fujian province.**

BEIJING (AFP) - A traditional Chinese medicine company at the heart of an angry Internet campaign accusing it of cruelty to animals opened one of its controversial bear bile farms to journalists.

Bear bile has long been used in China to treat various health problems, despite skepticism over its effectiveness and outrage over the bile extraction process, which animal rights group say is excruciatingly painful for bears.

The Guizhentang pharmaceutical company in the southeastern province of Fujian last year announced plans to raise millions of dollars through a stock exchange listing in order to increase production of the bile.

But the announcement sparked a noisy Internet campaign against the listing that brought into question the med-

ical effectiveness of the bile and the cruel manner in which it is extracted from living bears.

According to a Guizhentang spokeswoman surnamed Wang, Chinese journalists began visiting one of the company's bear farms on Wednesday as part of attempts to address the controversy.

She said they were promised full "transparency" to inspect the premise, but the state-run Beijing News reported that journalists would not be allowed to ask questions during the visit.

The company refused to allow AFP journalists to take part in the tour, saying the event was not open to foreign reporters.

Photos posted on popular web portal 163.com by reporters allowed into the farm showed a large enclosure

where dozens of bears roamed around, some climbing on metallic structures, in what was called a "breeding centre."

Other photos show the black bears in small, narrow cages, and employees wearing surgical masks, hats and gloves, sticking draining tubes in the animals' gall bladders and a yellow liquid flowing into a glass.

The cages are raised high above the ground so that employees can access the bears easily.

Animals Asia, which since 1988 has been campaigning against the practice, on Tuesday published a report and video exposing what it said was the "brutal truth" behind bile extractions, in anticipation of the visit.

It said that around 7,000 bears still languish in bile farms across China, but many more could be used in illegal establishments.

Bear bile is used in China and other Asian countries to treat fevers, liver disease, eye problems and other health problems, but activists have for years tried to stop the practice, citing it as a form of torture for the bears.

Guizhentang farmed 470 bears last year, and had decided to list to increase the number to 1,200 in order to step up annual production of bile to 4,000 tonnes.

# US to import short-supply cancer drug from India

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US health authorities said Tuesday they will import a drug to treat ovarian, bone marrow and AIDS-related skin cancer from India in order to ward off a worrying shortage.

"Lipodox will be imported as an alternative to Doxil," the US Food and Drug Administration said in a statement, noting that a temporary deal has been made with Sun Pharma Global FZE in India to supply US patients with the drug.

"Temporary importation of unapproved foreign drugs is considered in rare cases when there is a shortage of an approved drug that is critical to patients and the shortage cannot be resolved in a timely fashion with FDA-approved drugs."

Another drug that has been in short supply, methotrexate - needed for treating a variety of cancers including children with leukemia -- was approved in preservative-free generic form for maker APP Pharmaceuticals in Illinois and should be available by March, the FDA said.

In the meantime, a shipment of 31,000 vials, or one month's supply, is being sent right away to hundreds of US hospitals and treatment centers by Hospira, the agency added.

Prescription drug shortages in the United States nearly tripled from 2005 to 2010, according to the Department of

Health and Human Services.

Many drugs are falling out of production because drug-makers cannot profit when medications go generic and carry extremely low price tags. Profit-incentive for doctors to prescribe more expensive cancer meds has also contributed to the problem.

In October 2011, US President Barack Obama signed an executive order directing action to head off shortages in life-saving prescription drugs.

Obama's order strengthened the FDA's power to predict and tackle potential shortages of prescription drugs and to halt illegal price gouging of life-saving medicines during supply shortfalls.

Since then, the FDA has been able to ward off 114 drug shortages, compared to a total of 195 drug shortages prevented in 2011, the agency said.

The change is mostly due to a six-fold increase in companies complying with a request to give early warning to the FDA if they foresee a shortage, so that health authorities can seek other suppliers.

The FDA on Tuesday also "issued draft guidance to industry on detailed requirements for both mandatory and voluntary notifications to the agency of issues that could result in a drug shortage or supply disruption," it said.

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## China computer maker seeks Shanghai iPad sale ban

(AFP) - A Chinese computer maker on Wednesday asked a Shanghai court to bar the sale of Apple's iconic iPad in the commercial metropolis in a long-running trademark dispute.

Proview Technology (Shenzhen) says it owns the Chinese rights to the "iPad" name and is seeking legal backing to force the US technology giant to stop selling its trendy tablet computer in the city, where Apple has three stores.

It is very rare for a Chinese enterprise to accuse an overseas firm of trademark breaches -- although foreign companies frequently complain of intellectual property rights violations in China.

In a half-day hearing at the Pudong District People's

Court, lawyers for both firms exchanged evidence and forcefully presented their cases, prompting the chief judge to interrupt several times, spectators said.

The district court will decide whether the case should proceed to formal trial, a court official told AFP.

The Shanghai case marks the latest round in a lengthy and multi-pronged legal battle between Apple and debt-laden Proview, which has been badly hit by the financial crisis, over the rights to the iPad name.

The Taiwan affiliate of Proview Technology (Shenzhen) registered "iPad" as a trademark in several countries including China as early as 2000 -- years before Apple began selling its product.

The US titan subsequently

bought the rights for the global trademark, but Proview Technology (Shenzhen) claims the Taiwanese affiliate had no right to sell the Chinese rights.

Speaking after the hearing Wednesday, Proview's lawyer, Xie Xianghui, said he hoped the Shanghai court would make a decision soon to move the case forward.

Apple last year took the firm to a Chinese court, claiming trademark infringement, but the court ruled the US company lacked "supporting facts and evidence" for its claim -- even though a Hong Kong court had previously sided with Apple.

Apple is now appealing that case but Proview, which makes computer monitors, has itself filed trademark lawsuits against Apple in China and is threatening to sue the technology giant in the United States for \$2 billion.

But Xie said Wednesday that a settlement was possible.

Apple's law firm this week warned Proview of possible legal action over "defamatory statements and unlawful actions" aimed at interfering with Apple's business, according to a letter seen by AFP.

There was little sign the dispute was having an impact on Apple sales in Shanghai with the Apple store in the city's financial district reporting brisk business.

## Sci-Tech

# Stem cell implants boost monkeys with Parkinson's

TOKYO (AFP) - Monkeys suffering from Parkinson's disease show a marked improvement when human embryonic stem cells are implanted in their brains, in what a Japanese researcher said was a world first.

A team of scientists transplanted the stem cells into four primates that were suffering from the debilitating disease.

The monkeys all had violent shaking in their limbs -- a classic symptom of Parkinson's disease -- and were unable to control their bodies, but began to show improvements in their motor control after about three months, Kyoto University associate professor Jun Takahashi told AFP.

About six months after the transplant, the creatures were able to walk around their cages, he said.

Parkinson's disease is a progressive neurological illness linked to a decrease in dopamine production in the brain. There is currently no medical solution to this drop off in a key neurotransmitter.

The condition, which generally affects older people, gained wider public recognition when Hollywood actor Michael J. Fox revealed he

was a sufferer.

Takahashi said at the time of the implant about 35 percent of the stem cells had already grown into dopamine neuron cells, with around 10 percent still alive after a year.

He said he wants to improve the effectiveness of the treatment by increasing the survival rate of dopamine neuron cells to 70 percent.

Takahashi said so far he had used embryonic stem cells, which are harvested from foetuses, but would likely switch to Induced Pluripotent Stem cells, which are created from human skin, for the clinical trial.

Scientists say the use of human embryonic stem cells as a treatment for cancer and other diseases holds great promise, but the process has drawn fire from religious conservatives, among others.

Opponents say harvesting the cells, which have the potential to become any cell in the human body, is unethical because it involves the destruction of an embryo.

The Japanese government currently has no guidelines on the use of human stem cells in clinical research.



**MEHSANA, India** : Employees work on solar panels placed over the Narmada Canal near Chandrasan village of Mehsana district, some 60 kms from Ahmedabad, on February 15, 2012. The Gujarat State Electricity Corporation Limited (GSECL), with the expertise of US-based SunEdison, is laying out solar panels in a pilot project along a one-kilometre length of the Narmada canal to produce 1MW of power.  
**AFP PHOTO**



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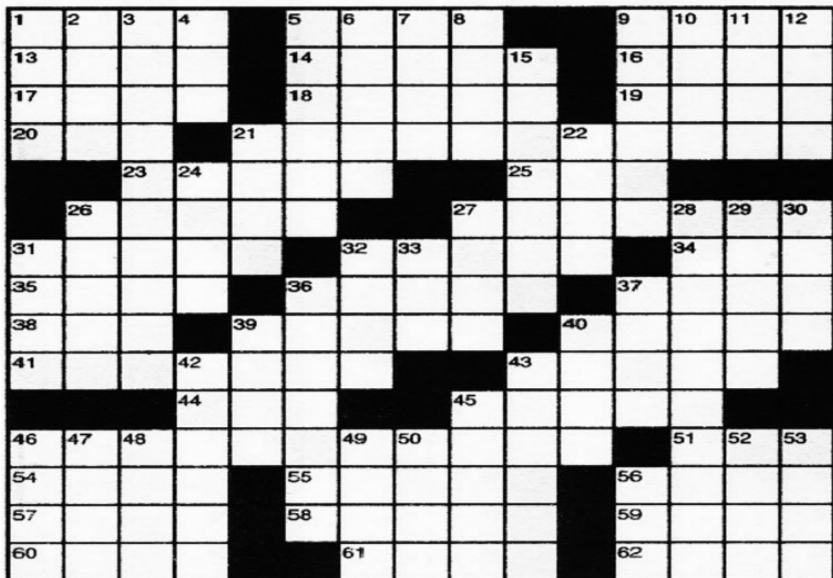
1. Ann's advice-giving twin
5. Wading bird
9. Plan
13. Popular board game
14. Models for Rubens
16. Characterization
17. It might cause a Maui "wowie!"
18. Certain Slav
19. "Martin \_\_\_\_" (Jack London)
20. Snake-like fish
21. Wee hours dorm activity
23. Kosher category
25. Rebuttal word
26. Arenas
27. Tumbler

31. Brownish-green eye color
32. Type of bank card
34. Game based on crazy eights
35. Wielded
36. Composer Maurice
37. "Betsy's Wedding" director
38. Douglas \_\_\_\_
39. Olympic prize
40. Rolodexed
41. Gay
43. Beauty parlor sets, for short
44. Individual
45. "Oil capital of the world"
46. Little Big Horn commander

51. LP info
54. Emulate H.L. Mencken
55. Cog sites
56. Slangy assent
57. French pronoun
58. Ford from Tennessee
59. Trigger's strap
60. Contemporary
61. Make all better
62. Italian erupter

## DOWN

1. Muscle strain
2. "Kind of \_\_\_\_" (Miles Davis)
3. Construction site sights
4. Positive vote
5. Becomes liable
6. Stout and sturdy
7. Pagan god
8. Vast expanses
9. Kin of abracadabra
10. City in Italy
11. Table spread
12. Elvis's st.
15. Craft store purchase
21. Bob's 1996 opponent
22. Variety
24. Thunder-struck
26. Bandleader Count
27. Director Ferrara ("Bad Lieutenant")
28. Good times on Wall Street
29. Where to ski in July
30. Pond hopper
31. Major snit
32. Miami's county, formerly
33. Actress Gabor
36. Word in an '05 "Star Wars" title
37. Tells the world
39. Carnaby Street length
40. Lost one's heart
42. Be unsteady
43. Throbbled
45. Center of Italy's auto industry
46. Leak out
47. Goofing off
48. Playing piece
49. Bacterium
50. Scourge
52. Bread, to Fifi
53. Pet store bird
56. Galena, e.g.



Answer on page 126

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	9	3	7			1		6
2	6	8						5
7	5		6	9			2	
3		5			6		9	8
9			8		3			1
8	1		2			5		7
	3			8	2		6	9
5						4	1	3
6		9			1	8	5	

SOLUTION

2	5	8	1	6	9	3	7	4
9	1	6	2	8	5	7	3	4
6	9	2	7	8	5	1	3	4
3	8	5	6	1	2	9	4	7
1	7	9	4	3	8	2	5	6
8	6	7	9	1	5	3	2	4
7	2	4	8	6	9	1	5	3
5	3	6	1	4	8	9	2	7
9	8	1	5	2	7	4	6	3

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9  
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.  
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9






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## Finance

### Syria currency reserves to run out soon

LONDON (AFP) - Syria will exhaust its foreign currency reserves in three to five months, sparking crisis in an economy reeling from sanctions over its crackdown on protests, a Western diplomat said yesterday.

"Foreign reserves are down, probably haemorrhaging up to \$3 billion (2.3 billion euros) a month," the diplomat told reporters in London.

"We think the reserves will probably be exhausted in three to five months," he said, adding that this was his government's "best estimate" at a time of scant reliable data on the Syrian economy. "There will be a point at which their currency will collapse," he said.

The Syrian pound has plunged to a series of record lows in black market trading since anti-regime protest broke down last month, and been hit by mounting economic woes.

The embattled regime of President Bashar al-Assad is also being squeezed by European Union oil and arms embargoes and the EU is currently planning a fresh set of penalties.

The United States and Canada have also imposed sanctions, while Arab nations have banned transactions with the Syrian government and central bank and frozen Syrian government assets in Arab countries.

## Obama proposes cutting corporate tax rate to 28%

WASHINGTON (AFP) - President Barack Obama yesterday unveiled plans to cut the top corporate tax rate to 28 percent and choke off lucrative loopholes, an election-year gambit that tests Republicans' pro-business credo.

Obama, doubling down on his pledge to build an economy that gives everyone a "fair shot," rolled out a plan to slash the nominal tax rate from 35 percent, while raking in more revenue by scraping dozens of cherished industry tax breaks.

"Our current corporate tax system is outdated, unfair, and inefficient," Obama said in a statement.

"That's why my administration released a framework for reform that simplifies the tax code, eliminates dozens of tax loopholes and subsidies, and

promotes job creation right here at home."

The plan -- which is in embryonic form -- stands little chance of passing a divided Congress this election year, but presents a stiff challenge to Republicans whose opposition to these cuts could be painted as opposition to any cuts.

Among those industries targeted for tougher treatment are oil and gas companies and hedge funds. Big Oil's tax subsidies alone are thought to be worth around \$4 billion dollars a year.

While the plan would lower taxes for manufacturing firms -- which would see an effective 25 percent rate -- it would also introduce a minimum levy on foreign earnings.

Under current rules US firms pay tax on foreign subsidiaries only when profits are sent back to the United States. Those rules have helped firms like General Electric to garner annual profits of \$14 billion while paying no corporate tax.

"It is time to stop rewarding businesses that ship jobs overseas, and start rewarding companies that create jobs right here in America," Obama said.

All of the Republicans hoping to wrest the Oval Office from Obama in November have advocated lower taxes for business, but they consider

broadening revenues to be a de facto tax hike.

President Obama has already demanded reform of the individual tax code so that millionaires pay at least 30 percent tax.

The White House said it would welcome a dual track approach, but added that gridlock in Congress meant a corporate-only deal was more feasible. "There is no reason why Congress couldn't take this up," said White House spokesman Jay Carney.

The plan could presents particular personal problem for Republican White House hopeful Mitt Romney, who has an effective tax rate of around 15 percent, despite being worth around \$250 billion.

The administration is expected to meet senior Democratic and Republican lawmakers in the coming weeks to push the plan.

The White House is also girding for tough fight from industry lobbyists who will fight hard to keep breaks worth billions of dollars the administration.

"You can call them tax preferences, tax expenditures, tax loopholes, tax incentives or tax benefits, but whatever you call them they are subsidies," said Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, who helped roll out the plan.

## Moet Hennessy to produce red wine in China

PARIS (AFP) - Moet Hennessy, the wine and spirits arm of France's LVMH luxury group, said yesterday it will make red wine in China where a taste for the better things in life has boomed along with the economy.

Moet Hennessy said it had joined forces with VATS, a Chinese wine firm, to develop a vineyard of 30 hectares (74


acres) in Yunnan province, southeastern China.

"It is the first time that LVMH has gone into red wine in China," a company spokesman said, adding that it would be of very high quality and ready to drink within four or five years.

China's rapid growth has made it key market luxury goods makers in recent years.

### YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

AVER SPIC CIRCE  
 NEVE ERGO ONEON  
 GRANTWOOD BALED  
 ENDOW STIMULI  
 LEE ERE FURLESS  
 PLUSSIGN FAA  
 ARGIVE HES SMUG  
 CHINE AAR PEACE  
 HEFT FLY ZIPPER  
 OAT TIPSHEET  
 OSHKOSH YET DAD  
 OUTTAKE AORTA  
 TARDE BONUSBABY  
 EPSOM ELAL ICAN  
 DRESS TEST TOTE



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	Canada	CAD	1.76	1.78 1.80
	Britiaian	GBP	2.73	2.78 2.84
	Switzerland	CHF	195.05	195.77 196.57
	Netherlands	EUR	233.50	235.63 238.00
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## Brit Award organisers apologise for cutting off Adele

LONDON (AFP) - The Brit Awards apologised Wednesday for cutting off Adele's speech as she accepted the main prize of the ceremony, a move which prompted the British singer to raise her middle finger at the crowd.

Adele said the gesture was not aimed at her fans but was an indication of her frustration at the "suits" who ran Britain's top music awards, held at London's O2 Arena.

The 23-year-old's success at the Brits capped an incredible year, which has seen her second album "21" top the charts around the world and saw her win six Grammys at Los Angeles last week -- a haul matched only by Beyonce.

But as she stood on stage late Tuesday to collect her Brit Award for best album, having receiving the best British female solo award earlier in the night, she barely had time for a few thank-yous before she was cut off.

The presenter, comic actor James Corden, apologised for stepping in, explaining that Blur were waiting to play a set, but Adele lifted her middle finger to the crowd.

"We regret this happened and we send our deepest apologies to Adele that her big moment was cut short due to the live show over running," the organisers said in a statement after the event.

"We don't want this to un-

dermine her incredible achievement in winning our night's biggest award, that tops off what's been an incredible year for her."

Speaking to reporters backstage, the singer explained: "I flipped the finger but it wasn't to my fans. I'm sorry if I offended anyone but it was the suits that offended me."

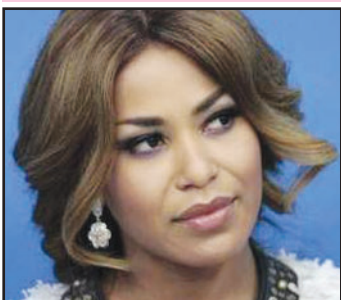
"Thank you all very much and thanks to my fans. I don't want them to think I was swearing at them."

In her brief acceptance speech, which followed her first performance in Britain since undergoing throat surgery last year, Adele said she was "so proud to be British and to be flying the flag".



Kourtney Kardashian, the 32-year-old reality star - who already has a two-year-old son Mason - says she and boyfriend Scott Disick, 28, are expecting a baby girl. Their second child is due in the late spring. The reality star announced her pregnancy in November; it was also hinted at on the most recent season of Kourtney and Kim Take New York. This will be the second child for Kardashian and Disick, whose son Mason celebrated his second birthday in December. Kardashian told E! News, "We feel so blessed to be having a little girl and to be able to share this new experience with Mason."

## Ukraine's Eurovision entry stirs racism row



(AFP) - A nationalist politician prompted fury in Ukraine on Wednesday with racist remarks about a singer of African origin who will represent the country at this year's Eurovision song contest.

"The show's millions of viewers will see Ukraine represented by someone who does not belong to our race, and they will think Ukraine is located somewhere in Africa," Yury Sirotnyuk of the Svoboda (Freedom) party told local media.

On Saturday a vote by a professional jury and television viewers selected 32-year-old pop singer Gaitana and her song "Be My Guest" as Ukraine's entry to the annual pop extravaganza to be held in May in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Born in Kiev to a Congolese father and a Ukrainian mother, she lived in the Republic of Congo as a young child before moving to Ukraine, where she became a famous singer, mostly performing in Ukrainian.

An opposition party led by WBC heavyweight boxing champion Vitali Klitschko slammed the comments by Sirotnyuk, a senior official in a nationalist party that does not have any parliamentary seats.

Ukraine's state television called on the Svoboda party to apologise.



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How many parents chasing after their little ones while on vacation have had that phrase cross their minds? "Are WE having fun yet?" Watching out for the kids on vacation and keeping them entertained can make many a parent wonder if the trip was worth it, but now there is an all encompassing answer at Palm Beach Plaza Shopping Mall



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and having a great time in a secure, controlled environment. Parents and children are photographed at check in, and children are not released to anyone but their parents. Both receive ID tags with bar codes which must match up when coming to retrieve your children and adults also are provided a beeper so they may be summoned at anytime, if necessary. Couples

are then free to relax and enjoy Palm Beach's many grown-up attractions, such as shopping and fine dining, with peace of mind.

Fun City provides two great environments for the family to share some quality time, Laser Tag and Desperado, a "5-Dimensional" interactive entertainment experience that will



**Share the fun on Flowrider**

that will provide hours of exciting entertainment for all ages and peace of mind for anxious parents.

The Flowrider/ Fun City complex in Palm Beach takes up the area of a full size resort and offers great activities at reasonable prices for every member of the family. Everyone will love spending time in the only Flowrider surfing environment in the Caribbean, while parents can leave their youngest at Fun City under careful security and supervision to relax and enjoy a bit of shopping, or a delightful dinner for just the two of them.

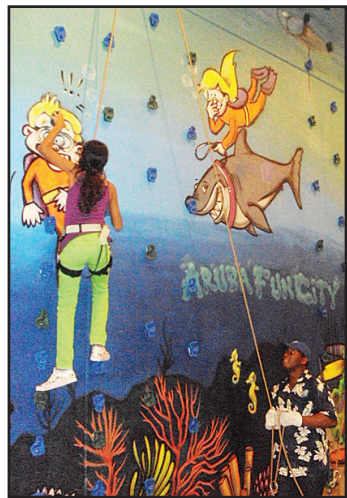
Fun City offers 3 age-appropriate environments for youngsters from 1 year to 12, with trained group leaders seeing to all the children's needs and providing educational fun for the little ones. There is the Baby Gym for ages 3 or 4 and Comfyland for kids up to 10, which was named "Best Playground of 2010" by the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions; both provide great ways for energetic young bodies to get a workout while also being guided through learning entertainment.

Another section of the third floor of the shopping center run by Fun City has baby rides, video games and air hockey scaled to pint-sized players and a rock climbing wall and other fun for teenagers.

For a fee of \$20 per hour, parents can rest assured their youngsters are well cared for

delight the young and the young at heart; an absolute bargain at only \$5 for either adventure. If you want to organize a unique and thrilling birthday party, the complex offers terrific packages that will make it an event to remember at a reasonable price.

All the family will find Flowrider and Fun City adding an exciting new aspect to their Aruba vacation and now you have an answer when you teenagers ask "Are we having fun yet?"



## Enjoy an enchanting vacation at Sasaki Apartments



Sasaki Apartments is a pleasant complex of 24 studio apartments, conveniently located in the residential area of Bubali in northern Aruba. Just 400 meters (0.31 miles) from the famous Eagle Beach, which you can walk to in about 8 minutes. Downtown, casinos, shops, supermarkets and restaurants are just minutes away by car, for your convenience.

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**ROME, Italy** : A handout picture taken and released on February 22, 2012 by the Vatican Press Office shows the Pope Benedict XVI (L) receiving ashes during the Mass for Ash Wednesday in Rome's Santa Sabina church on February 22, 2012. The ceremony opens Lent, the forty-day period of abstinence and deprivation for the Christians, before the Holy Week and Easter. **AFP PHOTO**



## SPORTS

**Football: Late goals see Basel and Marseille prevail**

PARIS (AFP) - A goal deep in injury time by Ghanaian star Andre Ayew gave Marseille a 1-0 win over 2010 champions Inter Milan in their Champions League last 16 first leg and cast further doubt over Claudio Ranieri's future on Wednesday.

There was also a late goal in the night's other tie as substitute Valentin Stocker's 86th minute effort gave unheralded Swiss side Basel a shock 1-0 home win over German giants Bayern Munich.

Basel had the better of the opening 20 minutes after Bayern's French star Franck Ribery had given them a wake-up call when he broke the offside trap but his shot was turned round the post by the Swiss side's goalkeeper Yann Sommer.

Basel, though, stormed back after that let-off and twice went agonisingly close to breaking the deadlock in a matter of minutes.

First Aleksandar Dragovic's

header looked to be heading for the back of the net only for German number one Manuel Neuer to pull off a miraculous stop which still saw the ball bounce along the line but it was hacked clear.

It was the turn of veteran former Swiss international striker Alexander Frei to be left frustrated a minute later as he turned smartly inside the box but while his shot beat Neuer it cannoned off the bar.

Sommer was then called into action twice in the latter stages of the second-half saving smartly from impressive 19-year-old Austrian David Alaba and then Ribery.

Sommer pulled off a great save midway through the second-half as he tipped over the bar a fierce long range effort by Bayern's experienced German fullback Philipp Lahm.

However, the deadlock was broken as the match entered its closing stages after Jacques Zoua threaded a superb ball to

the unmarked Stocker inside the box and he made no mistake sliding the ball between Neuer's legs.

Marseille and Inter enjoyed a quieter first-half, though Marseille 'keeper Steve Mandanda did have to tip over a close range Diego Forlan effort.

Goals looked even less likely from the visitors in the second-half as Ranieri sent on Yuto Nagatomo for Maicon at half-time -- the substitute like his fellow outfield players on the pitch having failed to find the net this year.

However, they should have taken the lead but Dejan Stankovic failed to get a good touch on the ball from only a few yards out and Mandanda was able to gather cleanly.

They were left to rue that miss as Ayew headed home in the third minute of injury-time to give the 1993 champions some breathing space when they travel to Milan.

**Football: United slayers Basel stun Bayern Munich**

BASEL (AFP) - FC Basel boosted their chances of a place in the Champions League quarter-finals with a shock 1-0 win over Bayern Munich in the last 16 first-leg tie on Wednesday.

Having beaten Manchester United 2-1 in Basel last December, the hosts pulled off another stunning victory when midfielder Valentin Stocker found the target in the 86th minute.

The defeat compounded Bayern's flagging confidence ahead of the return leg on March 13 at their Allianz Arena, which also hosts the final on May 19.

While Basel are flying high at the top of the Swiss league, Bayern have won just three of their seven games since Christmas and were held to a goalless draw at bottom side Freiburg last Saturday to leave them third in the Bundesliga.

They have now also gone 240 minutes without a goal.

In Basel, Bayern coach Jupp Heynckes started with Toni Kroos in the central attacking midfielder position, flanked by France wing Franck Ribery and Dutch World Cup finalist Arjen Robben.

It meant no place in the starting line-up for Thomas Mueller, the top scorer at the last World Cup, while Germany striker Mario Gomez was the lone striker.

Ribery tested Basel goalkeeper Yann Sommer twice early on, but the home side almost took the lead in the 15th minute when defender Aleksandar Dragovic forced goalkeeper Manuel Neuer into a reflex save.

Munich were facing one of their future players as Basel's 20-year-old attacking midfielder Xherdan Shaqiri joins their ranks on July 1 and he found space to exploit the guests' defence on several occasions.

Bayern were missing Germany star Bastian Schweinsteiger, who is out with damaged ankle ligaments, but his replacement in Munich's midfield David Alaba tested Sommer with a curling shot on 30 minutes.

Basel captain Marco Streller squandered a good chance on 48 minutes when he headed straight at Neuer.

Bayern controlled possession after the break while the hosts seemed to run out of steam and sat back on some solid defence with the time running out.

Mueller came on for Ribery with 20 minutes left to inject some life into the Germans' attack, but failed to break the hosts' solid defence.

With time almost up, the winner came when Stocker was found at the back post by Cameroon forward Jacques Zoua and the 22-year-old fired home low beyond Neuer to send the home crowd wild.

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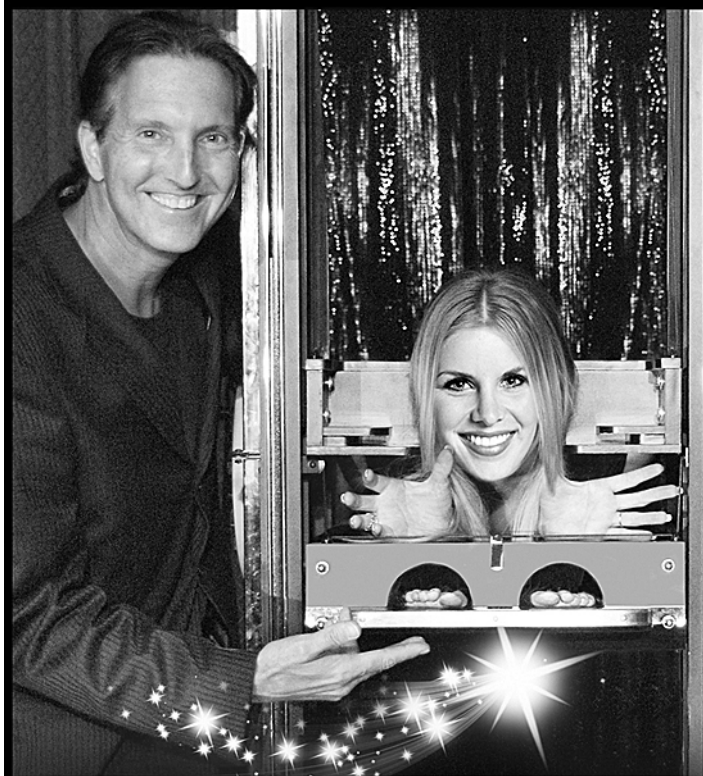
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## NBA: Lin to miss dunk moment but will fill bookshelves

NEW YORK (AFP) - NBA Asian-American sensation Jeremy Lin will not be helping out in the All-Star Slam Dunk Contest, but the 23-year-old New York Knicks point guard has become a fixture on US bookshelves.

Injured Knicks guard Iman Shumpert pulled out of Saturday's NBA Slam Dunk Contest on the eve of the league's All-Star Game in Orlando because of left knee tendinitis, ending plans for Lin to have a support role in his dunks.

Lin will still participate in the NBA Rising Stars Challenge on the eve of Sunday's 61st NBA All-Star Game, the league having found a way to include its hottest high-profile star in its annual mid-season showcase event.

Utah forward Jeremy Evans will replace Shumpert in the Slam Dunk Contest, which also features Houston's Chase Budinger, Minnesota's Derrick Williams and Indiana's Paul George.

While Lin lost one opportunity on Wednesday, two more attention grabbers sprung up, the first being his second consecutive week as the featured cover athlete on Sports Illustrated.

Hachette Book Group also announced on Wednesday that it will publish "Jeremy Lin:

The Reason for the Linsanity", a book by Timothy Dalrymple that is due to reach bookstores in May, offering an inside look at the NBA phenomenon.

Lin, whose parents are from Taiwan, was an economics major at Harvard who could not land an NBA job after graduating, going unclaimed in the NBA Draft and cut by Golden State and Houston last December.

The Knicks took a chance on him but Lin languished on the bench and only a few days remained before the Knicks were likely to cut him rather than be locked into paying him a full season's salary.

But when Carmelo Anthony was injured and Amare Stoudemire took a week off following the death of his brother in a car crash, the Knicks gave Lin his chance and he responded with the highest point total by any player in his first five NBA starts since 1976, sparking the Knicks to a seven-game win streak.

With prolific scoring feats, last-second game-winning baskets and even huge numbers of assists, Lin captivated Knicks fans and captured the imagination of NBA fans worldwide, becoming the top draw among Asian NBA followers since Yao Ming retired, eclipsing China's Yi Jianlian of the reigning NBA champion Dallas Mavericks.

Stores are open Daily 10AM - 10PM  
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## Tennis: Stosur seeks US Open follow-up



**Australian tennis player Samantha Stosur**

DUBAI (AFP) - Samantha Stosur appears to have her best chance to win a first title since the US Open after reaching the quarter-finals of the Dubai Open on Wednesday.

It is five months since the Australian captured the first Grand Slam title of her career in New York, but during her 6-1, 6-7 (7/5), 6-1 win over Lucie Safarova she showed glimpses of a return to title-

winning form.

Safarova, who beat former world number one Caroline Wozniacki in Doha last week, found more chances to flay her left-handed forehand cross court into Stosur's backhand in the second set.

But in the third Stosur was able to re-impose her serve, one of the finest in the women's game, and with some help of some forceful follow-ups, restored the earlier patterns of the match.

Stosur's cause may also have been significantly aided by top-seeded Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka pulling out shortly before her first round match with an ankle injury.

That follows the pre-tournament absence of the second-seeded Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova. Both players had been placed in Stosur's half.

With Li Na, the French Open champion from China,

missing with a bad back, and Vera Zvonareva, the former Wimbledon finalist from Russia, absent with a hip problem, the draw has opened up for her invitingly.

Stosur next plays Jelena Jankovic, the former world number one from Serbia, who reached the quarter-finals with a 6-4, 6-2 win over Flavia Pennetta, last year's conqueror of Azarenka.

Still playing with a tear in her bandaged left thigh, Jankovic recovered well from an early 1-3 deficit, adopting a more positive approach and finding a good combination of aggression with consistency.

Later the defending champion, Caroline Wozniacki, also reached the quarter-finals, after outplaying Simona Halep, a Romanian qualifier, 6-2, 6-3.

It earned the Dane a meeting with another former world number one, Ana Ivanovic. The Serb beat Maria Kir-

ilenko, a former top 20 Russian, 6-2, 7-6 (7/4) despite losing a three-point lead and trailing 3-4 in the tie-break.

Agnieszka Radwanska, the fifth seeded Pole who overcame the Israeli Shahar Peer 7-5, 6-4 on a strictly monitored outside court, had a different interpretation of the casualty list which has left her one of the three most likely players to win the title.

Radwanska now plays Sabine Lisicki, the Wimbledon semi-finalist from Germany.

Meanwhile Peer, who in 2010 here became the first female Israeli athlete to compete in the UAE, departed celebrating another diplomatic success for her and the ground-breaking Dubai Open.

Although she still had to live with tight security in separate facilities from all the other players, it was regarded appropriate to allow the Israeli sightseeing for the first time in her three visits to Dubai.



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## Pacman 'embarrassed' by Mayweather offer



**Manny Pacquiao and Timothy Bradley Jr**

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Manny Pacquiao says the pieces were falling into place for a world title fight with Floyd Mayweather until the American boxer tried to low-ball him on the split of the pay-per-view revenue.

Pacquiao said he called Mayweather personally to try to broker a deal for a world championship fight and thought they had an agreement until Mayweather brought up the pay per view.

Mayweather said he would give Pacquiao a \$40 million lump-sum payment if Pacquiao agreed to let Mayweather keep the pay per view earnings for himself.

"It was embarrassing to

me," Pacquiao said.

"He was trying to take advantage of me. It is clear he didn't want to fight."

Some experts have estimated that the pay per view could be around \$160 million.

Pacquiao and Mayweather have tried several times to get a contract signed but it has been scuttled for a variety of reasons, including disagreements over blood testing and the share of the purse.

"I called Floyd and told him that we need to make this fight happen," Pacquiao said at The Beverly Hills Hotel. "I said he could have whatever he wants, blood testing, 50/50 split and he said 'Oh, well. I will give you what you want.'"

Then he mentioned the pay per view."

For now, Pacquiao and the unbeaten Mayweather have lined up other opponents with speculation that the mega fight could happen later in the year if it comes off at all.

Pacquiao is scheduled to face American Timothy Bradley on June 9 at the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas for Pacman's World Boxing Organization welterweight belt.

Pacquiao's trainer Freddie Roach said they are not taking Bradley lightly but it is hard not to get excited about a possible upcoming mega fight against Mayweather.

Bradley was one of several fighters in the mix as a possible Pacquiao opponent after Mayweather fell through.

Bradley boasts a record of 28-0 with 12 knockouts. Pacquiao, 54-3-2 with 38 knockouts, hasn't lost since March 2005 and is considered the best pound-for-pound boxer on the planet.

But Pacquiao was less than dominant as he struggled to a majority points decision over Juan Manuel Marquez in November.

Bradley and Pacquiao

kicked off their promotional tour this week at The Beverly Hills Hotel. They smiled as they posed for photos together and Pacquiao then lightheartedly borrowed a camera and took pictures of Bradley in his boxing pose.

Joking aside, Roach said he expects Pacquiao to be ready to knock Bradley out.

Roach said Bradley is more than just a replacement fighter and that they want to hand him the first loss of his career while he is in his prime.

Bradley, of Palm Springs, California, is coming off an eight-round knockout victory over ex-world champ Joel Casamayor.

The 28-year-old Bradley said he plans to take the fight to Pacquiao. He won't make the same mistakes as recent Pacquiao opponents Joshua Clottey and Shane Mosley who were booed because they talked a good fight but didn't back it up once they got in the ring with eight division world champion Pacquiao.

Pacquiao will travel to New York for another news conference today then fly back to the Philippines where he is a member of Congress.

Pacquiao has also divested himself of some bad habits, selling a casino he owned and getting rid of the roosters he kept for cock fighting in his native Philippines.

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